

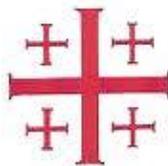


PHILADELPHIA EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

*A seat for the Bishop, a home for the diocese, an open door for all*



**Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania  
The Commemoration of Blessed Absalom Jones  
Holy Eucharist**



**Saturday, February 12, 2022  
10:00 a.m.**

## Blessed Absalom Jones

Absalom Jones was born enslaved to Abraham Wynkoop a wealthy Anglican planter in 1746 in Delaware. He was working in the fields when Abraham recognized that he was an intelligent child and ordered that he be trained to work in the house. Absalom eagerly accepted instruction in reading. He also saved money he was given and bought books (among them a primer, a spelling book, and a bible). Abraham Wynkoop died in 1753 and by 1755 his younger son Benjamin had inherited the plantation. When Absalom was sixteen Benjamin Wynkoop sold the plantation and Absalom's mother, sister, and five brothers. Wynkoop brought Absalom to Philadelphia where he opened a store and joined St. Peter's Church. In Philadelphia Benjamin Wynkoop permitted Absalom to attend a night school for black people that was operated by Quakers following the tradition established by abolitionist teacher Anthony Benezet.

At twenty, with the permission of their masters, Absalom married Mary Thomas who was enslaved to Sarah King who also worshipped at St. Peter's. The Rev. Jacob Duche performed the wedding at Christ Church. Absalom and his father-in-law, John Thomas, used their savings, and sought donations and loans primarily from prominent Quakers, in order to purchase Mary's freedom. Absalom and Mary worked very hard to repay the money borrowed to buy her freedom. They saved enough money to buy property and to buy Absalom's freedom. Although he repeatedly asked Benjamin Wynkoop to allow him to buy his freedom Wynkoop refused. Absalom persisted because as long as he was enslaved Wynkoop could take his property and his money. Finally, in 1784 Benjamin Wynkoop freed Absalom by granting him a manumission. Absalom continued to work in Wynkoop's store as a paid employee.

Absalom left St. Peter's Church and began worshipping at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church. He met Richard Allen who had been engaged to preach at St. George's and the two became lifelong friends. Together, in 1787, they founded the Free African Society a mutual aid benevolent organization that was the first of its kind organized by and for black people. Members of the Society paid monthly dues for the benefit of those in need. At St George's, Absalom and Richard served as lay ministers for the black membership. The active evangelism of Jones and Allen, greatly increased black membership at St George's. The black members worked hard to help raise money to build an upstairs gallery intended to enlarge the church. The church leadership decided to segregate the black worshippers in the gallery, without notifying them.

During a Sunday morning service, a dispute arose over the seats black members had been instructed to take in the gallery and ushers attempted to physically remove

them by first accosting Absalom Jones. Most of the black members present indignantly walked out of St. George's in a body.

Prior to the incident at St. George's the Free African Society had initiated religious services. Some of these services were presided over by The Rev. Joseph Pilmore an assistant St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The Society established communication with similar black groups in other cities. In 1792 the Society began to build the African Church of Philadelphia. The church membership took a denominational vote and decided to affiliate with the Episcopal Church. Richard Allen withdrew from the effort as he favored affiliation with the Methodist Church. Absalom Jones was asked to provide pastoral leadership and after prayer and reflection he accepted the call.

The African Church was dedicated on July 17, 1794. The Rev. Dr. Samuel Magaw, rector St. Paul's Church, preached the dedicatory address. Dr. Magaw was assisted at the service by The Rev. James Abercrombie, assistant minister at Christ Church. Soon thereafter the congregation applied for membership in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania on the following conditions: 1) that they be received as an organized body; 2) that they have control over their own local affairs; 3) that Absalom Jones be licensed as a lay reader, and, if qualified, be ordained as minister.

In October 1794 it was admitted as the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. The church was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1796. Bishop William White ordained Jones as deacon in 1795 and as priest on September 21, 1802.

Jones was an earnest preacher. He denounced slavery, and warned the oppressors to "clean their hands of slaves." To him, God was the Father, who always acted on "behalf of the oppressed and distressed." But it was his constant visiting and mild manner that made him beloved by his congregation and by the community. St. Thomas Church grew to over 500 members during its first year. The congregants formed a day school and were active in moral uplift, self-empowerment, and anti-slavery activities. Known as "the Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church," Jones was an example of persistent faith in God and in the Church as God's instrument. Absalom Jones died on February 13, 1818.

*Art Sudler with The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (Absalom's church), contributed to a biography on him as excerpted.*

# Feast of Blessed Absalom Jones

## Gathering –“Yet with a Steady Beat”

*inspired by the late The Reverend Dr. Harold T. Lewis*

The Reverend Darrell L. Tiller, *Narrator*

Priest-in- Charge, Grace Epiphany Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, PA

He's God the Whole World in His Hands -Traditional Spiritual

Shango-Jamal Lewis, *Soloist*

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Elkins Park, PA

Mr. David Antony Lofton, *Director*

Make Them Hear You - Stephen Flaherty, arr. by Jeff Funk

St. James School Choir - Ms. Javvieveus Stewart, *Director*

Hlonofatsa (*In the Name of the Father Be Blessed*) - South African Greeting Song

Episcopal Academy Choir - Mr. James Erwin, *Director*

Llegaron Los Pleneros – arr. by Jonathan Santiago

Bomba Band - Church of the Crucifixion, Philadelphia, PA

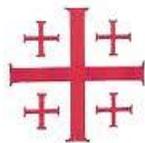
Mr. Anthony Mendez, *Director*

Perfect Way to Die - Alicia Keys

Ruth Naomi Floyd, *soloist*, Aaron Graves, *piano*

Camden Brass Ensemble – (P. A. C. E. Music Group)

Mr. Jamal P. Dickerson, *Director*



## Prelude

*Organ Reimagining of a Negro Spiritual: Let My People Go!*      Rasaan H. Bourke

Mr. Rasaan H. Bourke

Canon Music Director & Organist

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, (*Germantown*), Philadelphia, PA

## Procession

Bomba Drummers

Church of the Crucifixion, Philadelphia, PA

# Opening Hymn

# Blessed Absalom

arr. by Jay Fluellen

World Premiere Performance by the Pine Forge Academy Choir

*Mr. Jarrett Roseborough, Director of Choral Activities*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Born in bondage, born in shackles,<br>Born stripped of all dignity,<br>Abs'lom Jones was bound, determined,<br>That he would one day be free.<br>Blessed Abs'lom, leads us, guides us,<br>In the bonds of unity. | 4 One fine morning, while at worship,<br>Wrested from his knees in prayer;<br>He, his friends, were thus evicted:<br>"You no more may praise God here."<br>Blessed Abs'lom, pray that we may<br>Stand steadfast and persevere.   |
| 2 Seeking to expand horizons,<br>Bible, primer he did find;<br>To each word he was attentive,<br>Learning, lest he fall behind.<br>Blessed Abs'lom, liberates us<br>From the prison of our mind.                   | 5 Founded he Saint Thomas' church for<br>Afric's sons and daughters blest;<br>Full-fledged members of Christ's Body,<br>They no longer were oppressed.<br>Blessed Abs'lom, pray that we may<br>Be the church at Christ's behest. |
| 3 When in Philadelphia settled,<br>He sought persons in great need,<br>Dedicated to empow'rment,<br>His own people did he lead.<br>Blessed Abs'lom, pray that we from<br>All indiff'rence may be freed.            | 6 Blessed Abs'lom Jones, first priest of<br>Afric's stock within our fold;<br>May we, inspired by your witness<br>Raise up priests with hearts of gold!<br>Blessed Abs'lom, pioneer, prophet<br>May your story long be told.     |

7 Praise to Christ the Liberator;  
Praise Creator ever blest;  
Praise the Spirit, Source of comfort,  
North to south, and east to west:  
Blessed Abs'lom, priest, exemplar,  
In God's bosom now at rest.

Words: Harold T. Lewis (b. 1947) From *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. Music: John Goss & Jay Fluellen

Verses 1- 4 sung to the melody composed by John Goss.

Verses 5-7 sung to the melody composed by Jay Fluellen.

## Blessing of the Absalom Jones Icon

*As the procession ends, the icon of Absalom Jones is placed on its pedestal and the Bishop blesses it with holy water and incense and then says*

<i>Bishop</i>	Blessed Absalom, lead us, guide us!
<i>Assembly</i>	In bonds of unity, lead us, guide us! Amen.

*Bishop* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose will it is to be glorified in your saints, and who raised up your servant Absalom Jones to be a light in the world; shine we pray in our hearts, that following his example, we in our generation may strive for the liberation and reconciliation of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom you have called us out of darkness into your marvelous light, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit throughout all ages. Amen.

### **Opening Acclamation**

*Bishop* Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*Assembly* And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever, Amen.

### **Collect for Purity**

*Bishop* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Hymn**

#### **Lift Every Voice and Sing**

**Sung by the Pine Forge Academy Choir**

*Mr. Jarrett Roseborough, Director of Choral Activities*

Lift every voice and sing,  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise,  
High as the listening skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.

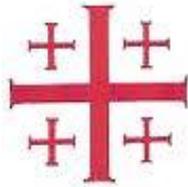
Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet,  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last,  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who has by Thy might, led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee;  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee,  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

Words: James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) Music: J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954)



## Collect of the Day

*Bishop*      The Lord be with you.

*Assembly*    And also with you.

*Bishop*      Let us pray.

Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear; that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

# Liturgy of the Word

## First Lesson

Isaiah 42: 5-9

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord

*Response*    Thanks be to God.

*The Psalm will be spoken in unison.*

## From the Psalter

Psalm 126

- 1 When God restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
and our tongue with joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, \*  
“God has done great things for them.”
- 4 God has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O God, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears \*  
shall reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.



*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*Response* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord

*Response* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**Sermon**

The Reverend Mark Andrew Jefferson, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Homiletics, Virginia Theological Seminary

*All stand.*

## The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **Prayers of the People\***

*Intercessor* God of freedom and justice: We celebrate today your servant, Absalom Jones, the first person of African ancestry ordained in The Episcopal Church. Empower your Church, O God, and the Diocese of Pennsylvania, its people and its clergy. Teach us how to continue the ministries of reconciliation and peace and to grow Absalom Jones' ministry of racial justice. God of power and goodness:

*Response* Hear our prayer.

*Intercessor* God who hears, you put the tears of our forbearers into your bottle, recording them in your book: Help the nations of the world hear their citizens' concerns by responding to injustice, war, and slavery with actions that lead to peace. God of power and goodness:

*Response* Hear our prayer.

*Intercessor* God who creates, Blessed Absalom reminded us that sacrifices must be accompanied with action: Guide our feet to run the race without getting weary. Keep us focused on the fight for equality. God of power and goodness:

*Response* Hear our prayer.

*Intercessor* Healing God, deliver those who call upon your name: Inspire our hearts with hope as we offer prayers for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Assist them to grow from strength to strength as they come to know you more fully. God of power and goodness:

*Response* Hear our prayer.

*Intercessor* God of compassion, you hear your people's cries and prayers in heaven: Help us remember that we stand on the prayers of our ancestors. As they prayed for current and future generations, so must we pray today for our sisters and brothers who have died and for those yet to come. God of power and goodness:

*Response* Hear our prayer.

*The Bishop then prays*

Almighty God, you created all people and blessed us by making us in a wondrous variety. As you were with Blessed Absalom, be with us as we seek to make "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Support each of us as we work to do your will, that together we may make a difference. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*\*Prayers of the People - Adapted from "A Litany of Thanksgiving for Absalom Jones" written by the Reverend Jemonde Taylor.*



## **Sharing of God's Peace**

*Bishop* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*Assembly* And also with you.

## **Welcome from the Dean of the Cathedral**

The Very Reverend Judith A. Sullivan

## **Greetings from Chair of the Absalom Jones Planning Committee**

The Reverend Canon Jordan F. Casson

## **Offertory Sentence**

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. (*Psalm 50:14*)

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It is our prayer that a statue of Blessed Absalom will be commissioned in the diocese.

You can help us make this a reality by donating here: [www.diopa.org/donate](http://www.diopa.org/donate)

# Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Anthem

"Elijah Rock"

Spiritual

arr. Jarrett Roseborough

Sung by the Pine Forge Academy Choir

*Mr. Jarrett Roseborough, Director of Choral Activities*



## The Great Thanksgiving

*Bishop* The Lord be with you.

*Assembly* And also with you.

*Bishop* Lift up your hearts.

*Assembly* We lift them to the Lord.

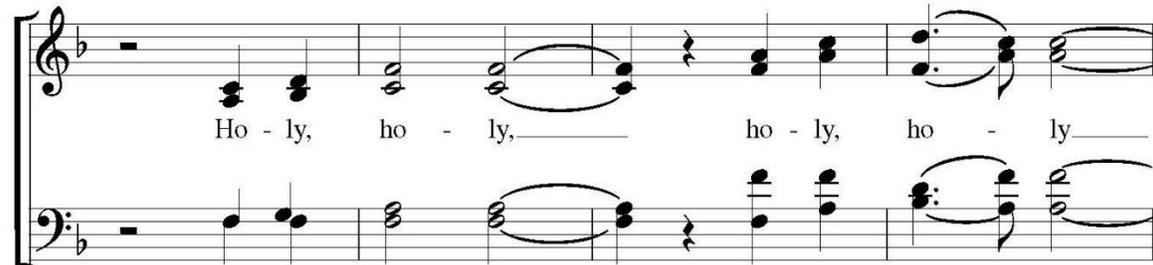
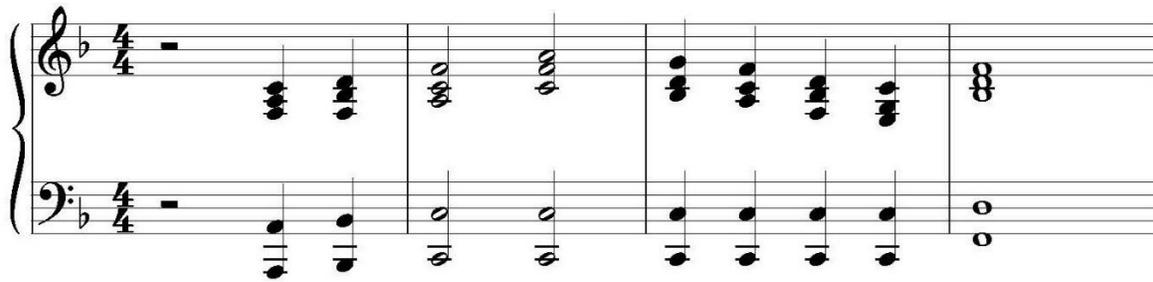
*Bishop* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*Assembly* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

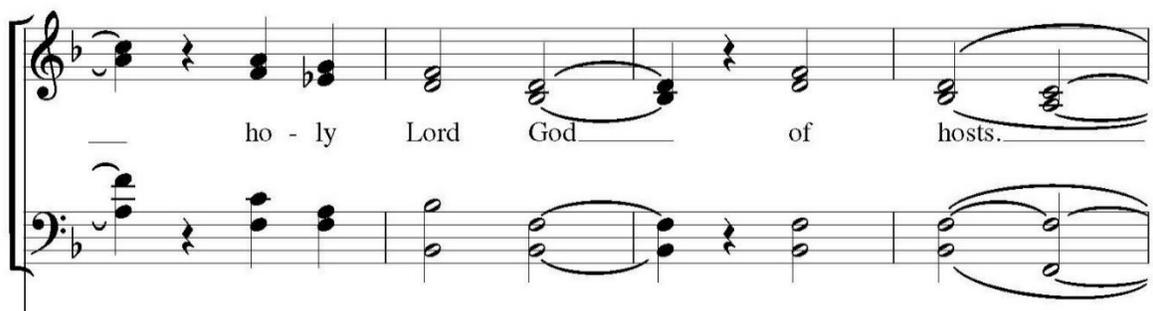
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For the wonderful grace and virtue declared in all your saints, who have been chosen vessels of your grace, and the lights of the world in their generations. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

# Sanctus

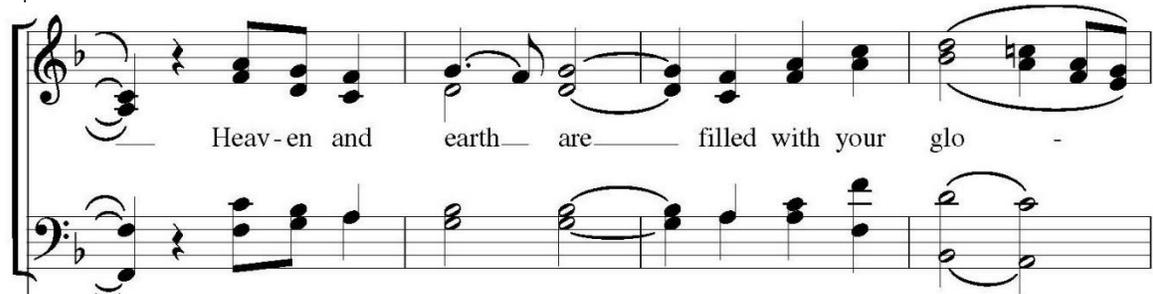
Valerie V. Gay, soprano – Shango-Jamal Lewis, baritone



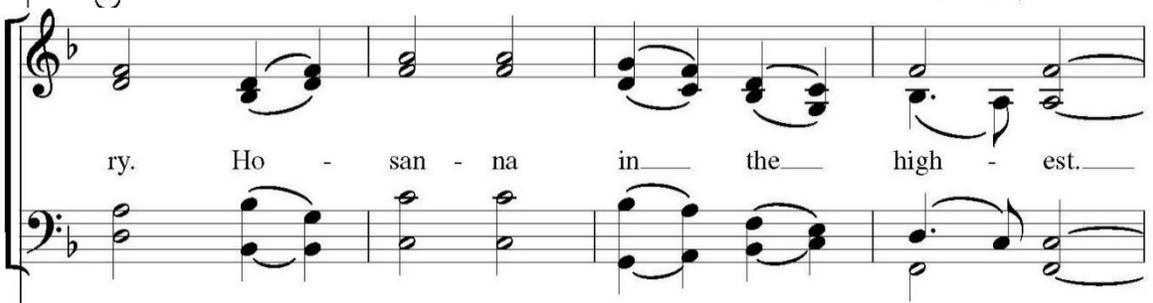
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly



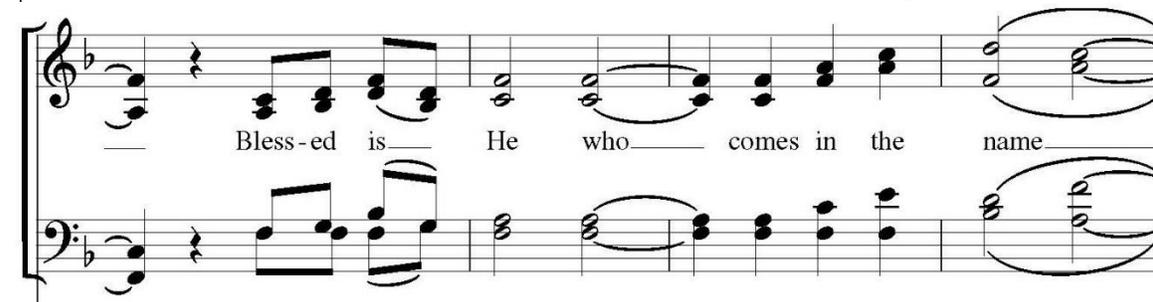
ho - ly Lord God of hosts.



Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo -



ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is He who comes in the name

of the Lord, of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high -

est, ho - san - na in the high - est

The image shows a musical score for a liturgical piece. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The lyrics are: "of the Lord, of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est". The music is in a minor key and features a steady, rhythmic accompaniment with some melodic lines in the vocal part.

Music: Grayson Warren Brown (b. 1948), *A Mass for a Soulful People* Copyright: © 1979 North American Liturgy Resources. From *Lift Every Voice and Sing*.

*The Bishop continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Bishop and Assembly*

We remember his death.

We proclaim his resurrection.

We await His coming in glory.

*The Bishop continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Blessed Absalom and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

*(The Book of Common Prayer - Eucharistic Prayer B)*

### **The Lord's Prayer** *(said by all)*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Bishop Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Assembly Therefore let us keep the feast.

**Agnus Dei** Valerie V. Gay, soprano – Shango-Jamal Lewis, baritone

Org.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the\_

sins\_ of the world: have mer - cy on us.\_\_\_\_\_ Lamb of God, you take a -

way the\_ sins\_ of the world: have mer - cy on us.\_\_\_\_\_ Lamb of God, you

take\_ a - way the\_ sins\_ of the world:\_\_\_\_\_

Org.

grant\_ us\_ peace.\_\_\_\_\_

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of five staves. The first four staves contain vocal lines for soprano and baritone, with lyrics underneath. The fifth staff is an organ accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the\_ sins\_ of the world: have mer - cy on us.\_\_\_\_\_ Lamb of God, you take a - way the\_ sins\_ of the world: have mer - cy on us.\_\_\_\_\_ Lamb of God, you take\_ a - way the\_ sins\_ of the world:\_\_\_\_\_ grant\_ us\_ peace.\_\_\_\_\_'

Music: Marjorie Landsmark-DeLewis (b. 1930) Copyright: August 1990 Marjorie Landsmark-DeLewis .  
From *Lift Every Voice and Sing*.

*All stand.*

**Postcommunion Prayer** (*said by all*)

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Bishop's Blessing**

**Dismissal**

Deacon Let us go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.  
Assembly Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Sung by the Pine Forge Academy Choir

*Mr. Jarrett Roseborough, Director of Choral Activities*

Why do you cry? He has risen.  
Why are you weeping? He's not dead.  
Why do you cry? He has risen.  
Why are you weeping? He's not dead.  
He paid it all on that lonely highway,  
And His anointing I can feel.  
He shed His blood for my transgressions.  
And by His stripes we are healed.  
Why do you cry? He has risen.  
Why are you weeping? He's not dead.  
So as you go through life's journey,  
Don't you worry lift up your head.  
Don't you cry stop your weeping.  
He has risen. He's not dead.  
Don't cry wipe your eyes.  
He's not dead. Oh don't weep.  
He's not asleep.  
Jehovah!

He's not dead. Oh don't cry. Wipe your eyes, He's not dead

**Postlude**

*Sortie on South African Freedom Song*

*(in memory of Bishop Desmond Tutu)*

Rasaan H. Bourke

Mr. Rasaan H. Bourke

Canon Music Director & Organist

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, (*Germantown*), Philadelphia, PA



## **Guest Preacher**

### **The Reverend Mark Andrew Jefferson, Ph.D.**

Before joining the Seminary faculty in 2016, Reverend Jefferson was an adjunct professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh, PA, and previously taught at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Jefferson holds a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Religion focusing on Homiletics from Emory University where he was a doctoral fellow for the Fund for Theological Exploration (FTE) and the Lilly Foundation. During his doctoral work, he received the W.E.B. Du Bois Award from the Candler School of Theology. Active in the life of the church in graduate school in Atlanta, Dr. Jefferson was the Director of Christian Education at The Greater Travelers Rest Baptist Church, which, at the time, was counted as one of the fastest-growing churches in the country, according to Outreach Magazine. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, where he concentrated his coursework in homiletics, completed a certificate in Black Church Studies, and served as President of the Black Student Caucus. He majored in Political Science and concentrated in Public Administration at Norfolk State University (NSU) in Norfolk, Virginia. While at NSU, he served as the President of Pi Sigma Alpha (the political science honor society), earned the Vince Lombardi Most Outstanding Football Athlete Award, and was named a Coca-Cola Academic All-American.

Dr. Jefferson's preaching, scholarship, and engagement with popular culture outline his commitment to be a public theologian. The critical engagement of the American social imagination and African American socio-political enfranchisement and empowerment are areas of concentration for Dr. Jefferson's life and work.

Dr. Jefferson is an emerging scholar interested in the ways that consciousness and imagination inform the practice of preaching. His dissertation titled "Beyond the Talented Tenth: W.E.B. Du Bois, the Hip-Hop Emcee, and the Reimagination of African American Homiletics" explores Du Bois' advocacy of the "Talented Tenth" social imagination and its influence in the formation of black preachers and preaching. In his upcoming book, tentatively titled, *The Mis-education of the African American Preacher*, Dr. Jefferson extends the work of Carter G. Woodson and his critique of the educational and cultural formation of African American leaders, namely preachers, by arguing that they are being formed to ineffectively preach and connect with the black masses. Dr. Jefferson has also contributed to the African American Lectionary and the Academy of Preachers.

Dr. Jefferson is an internationally respected preacher and teacher of preachers. He was inducted into the Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College and appeared in *The Nassau Guardian* (Bahamas). He has preached at churches such as: Washington National Cathedral, Washington, D.C.; Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria, VA; Mt. Ararat Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, PA; The House of Hope Atlanta, Decatur, GA; Friendship Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA; Trinity Cathedral, Phoenix, AZ; Alexandria Detention Center, Alexandria, VA and Bethel A.M.E, Hampton, VA among many others churches, conferences, chapels, public gatherings, and occasions. Dr. Jefferson was selected for the historic Lenten Preaching Series at Calvary Episcopal Church, in Memphis, TN. VTS is honoring its 200th anniversary on October 15, 2023, and in contribution to this effort, Dr. Jefferson is currently preaching 200 sermons locally, nationally, and internationally in the years leading up to the Historic Bicentenary.

Dr. Jefferson engages popular culture through lectures, panels, presentations, and social media, He was a featured panelist at the Something in the Water music festival sponsored by the African American Museum for History and Culture. His blog posts have been featured on Urban Cusp and The Root. He is invited to engage on social media panels, programs, and virtual events.

Dr. Jefferson, a native of Hampton, Virginia, is the quarterback for the Seminary's flag football team, the Fighting Friars.

## The Right Reverend Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez XVI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania



The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez was ordained on July 16, 2016, as the 16th bishop of the historic Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, the second oldest and fourth largest in The Episcopal Church (TEC). He serves as one of only two Hispano/Latino bishops in TEC outside of Province IX.

After his initial “listening pilgrimage” across the diocese, Bishop Gutiérrez focused on emphasizing the sacred presence of Jesus Christ and a call to holiness through a renewed focus on reverence, deep relationships, innovation, accountability and listening. He restructured the diocesan offices to better serve its parishes without increasing the budget. He emphasizes the role of a bishop as a pastor to the clergy and a shepherd to the laity.

The mystery of the Eucharist, contemplative prayer, scripture, pilgrimage and continually seeking the heart of Jesus Christ are spiritual foundations for Bishop Gutiérrez. “I long to be like the beloved disciple John; leaning against the chest of our Savior. Listening to his heartbeat. I am deeply, passionately in love with God. I have been transfixed and transformed by him through each step of my holy pilgrimage called life. His love, has left me speechless. In the words of that beloved disciple, “We love because he first loved us.” My heart seeks his heart. I am a clumsy but eager apprentice. I am most influenced by His words to Peter: ‘Feed my sheep.’ There is no greater calling than serving him and following this instruction with each action I take. I listen for him to whisper, ‘Come and See. Follow me!’” Then let us fall into the arms of Christ and listen to His heart.

Before his calling as Bishop, he had a distinguished career in both The Episcopal Church and in public service in New Mexico. Rebuilding and growing churches were the hallmark of his time in key leadership positions at The Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande. At the request of the Presiding Bishop, he served in an administrative oversight position for The Episcopal Church in Navajoland, which included being vice president of the Navajoland Economic Development Corporation.

His career in public service included serving as chief of staff to the Mayor of Albuquerque and Director of Economic Development. More than 25,000 private sector jobs were created as a result of efforts to recruit new businesses and expand existing ones.

With his involvement in local, state, and national politics and extensive experience and expertise in government, Bishop Gutiérrez also taught political consulting and marketing as an adjunct professor at the University of New Mexico. In 1998, he founded a strategy, marketing, media, and political consulting company called Mensajes.

Throughout his years in public service and in the church, Bishop Gutiérrez has served as a board member for numerous national organizations. In 2018, he served as vice-chairperson of The Social Justice and International Policy Committee for the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

He currently serves as chairman of the Board of Trustees for Episcopal Community Services, The Church Foundation, and the Clergy Assurance Fund; and as a board member for The Church Farm School, Episcopal Academy, The Gathering of Leaders, Forward Movement and the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese. He also is a trustee of the General Seminary of The Episcopal Church. In addition, Bishop Gutiérrez is a confrere of the Venerable Order of St. John; a co-convener of the Bishops United Against Gun Violence; and on the Religious Leaders Council of Philadelphia.

A native of New Mexico, Bishop Gutiérrez comes from a family that settled in "the Land of Enchantment" in the 1500s. He received Bachelor of Arts degrees in Political Science and History and a Master of Public Administration (concentration in budgeting), all from the University of New Mexico. While at the University of New Mexico, he was named a Graduate Scholars Fellow. Bishop Gutierrez earned a diocesan certificate in Anglican Studies through the Trinity School for Ministry and a Master in Theological Studies from St. Norbert College.

Aside from his faith, Bishop Gutiérrez counts as his most important role and greatest responsibility a position he assumed on June 26, 1998, when he became the extremely proud father of his son Jude, a junior at the University of New Mexico and member of ROTC who will be commissioned in the United States Army. It is a joy he shares with his wife, best friend, and partner of 28 years, Suzanne Fletcher Gutiérrez. The family shares in this joy with a household of dogs, turtles, pheasants, owls, and the other miscellaneous "pets" that wander through their lives.

## **Ministers of the Liturgy**

### **Presider**

The Right Reverend Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez  
XVI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

### **Preacher**

The Reverend Mark Andrew Jefferson, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Homiletics, Virginia Theological Seminary

### **Dean of the Cathedral**

The Very Reverend Judith A. Sullivan

### **Deacon**

The Reverend Canon Toneh Smyth  
Canon for Mission  
Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

### **Psalmist**

The Reverend Charles Lattimore Howard, Ph.D.  
Chaplain, University of Pennsylvania  
Associate Priest, Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral

### **Thurifer**

Mr. Kurt Williams  
St. George – St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

### **Readers**

Mr. Tyler Ray  
Church of the Advocate, Philadelphia, PA  
Ms. Sherrie Tatman  
Church of St. Andrew & St. Monica, Philadelphia, PA

### **Sacristan**

Ms. Dina L. Harvey  
Chair of the Diocesan Altar Guild

# The Absalom Jones Service Planning Committee

The Reverend Canon Jordan F. Casson, *Committee Chair*

The Reverend Canon Betsy Ivey, *Diocesan Liaison*

Ms. Lynn Buggage

Ms. Christine Broome

Mr. Lionel Broome

Dr. Jay Fluellen

Ms. Patricia Griffith

Ms. Dina L. Harvey

Mr. Earl R. Jefferson, III

Dr. Thomas Lloyd

The Reverend Thomas L. McClellan

The Very Reverend Judith A. Sullivan

Ms. Sherrie Tatman

The Reverend Darrell L. Tiller

Mr. Daniel Tomko

Mr. Kurt Williams

Ms. Frances Wilson

## Cathedral Chapter

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Mr. Gie Liem

Ms. Lisa Liem

Mr. Norman McClave, III

The Reverend Canon Stephen Price\*

Mr. Eric Rabe

The Reverend Canon Emily Richards

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw

Ms. Nokomis Wood

*\*In memoriam*

**Note:** *The portrait of Absalom Jones on the cover of the service leaflet was rendered by Philadelphia artist Raphaelle Peale in 1810.*



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PHILADELPHIA EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

*A seat for the Bishop, a home for the diocese, an open door for all*

**The Right Reverend Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez, Bishop**  
**The Very Reverend Judith A. Sullivan, Dean**  
**The Reverend Charles Lattimore Howard, Ph.D., Associate Priest**  
**The Venerable Dr. Pamela Nesbit, Archdeacon Emerita**  
**The Reverend Michael Nailor, Deacon**  
**The Reverend Dr. Phillip C. Bennett, Canon for Spiritual Life**  
**Dr. Thomas Lloyd, Canon for Music and the Arts**  
**Mr. Wesley Parrott, Cathedral Organist**

**Offices of the Dean and Chapter**  
**3717 Chestnut Street, Suite 200**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19104**  
**Phone: 215.386.0234 | Fax: 215.386.5009 | [www.philadelphiacathedral.org](http://www.philadelphiacathedral.org)**